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had been made for each." Many think that a thought loses its life when torn from its organic context, and it is certainly true that the weight and significance of an utterance for us depends much upon when and how it was said. Some sayings in the religious and secular literature of the world have a universal and eternal value like the formal truths of mathematics; by their very nature they contain, in abstract, symbolical formulae as it were, the condensed results of large social and ethical experience. But there are other utterances, of weight and power, too, which receive their coloring from the time and the things to which they were applied; if we take these in their literal tenor, and as applying in full force to the conditions of the present, we are apt to form narrow or extravagant judgments, and our actions will suffer accordingly. For persons who feel thus, as for those whose bibliographical tendencies are uppermost in character, and these form the larger number, Mr. Coit has supplied a general index and an index of authors and editions, giving accurately all his sources. The selections are beautiful, and, as a rule, appropriate, although in some few cases, of course, they illustrate the compiler's own opinions on modern questions, and not those of all impartial thinkers. All the best books of the world's literature have been turned to account in the compilation. μ .

L'ÉDUCATION. By *F. Picavet*. Paris: Léon Chailley. 1895. Pages, 232. Price, 4 francs.

La Vie Nationale is the title of a new library of social and political sciences, published by Léon Chailley, Paris, of which M. Picavet's work is the fourth volume, the three former being on *Politics*, *Commerce*, and the *Social Question*. M. Picavet has given us a very interesting and graceful little book, from which one can gain a clear picture of educational matters in France, without the expenditure of much time or labor—such a picture as every one should have who wishes to understand the history and significance of a country. The book is divided into three parts: (1) "The Past," consisting of a historical sketch of the old attempts in the direction of national education; (2) "The Present," consisting of a review and criticism of the present organisation, which, according to the author, lacks unity and cohesion; and (3) "The Future," where advisable reforms are pointed out. μ .

A COMPANION TO PLATO'S REPUBLIC. By *Bernard Bosanquet*. New York: Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. 439. Price, \$1.75.

The idea of writing a companion to Plato's *Republic* was suggested to Dr. Bosanquet by Mr. Walter Leaf's *Companion to the Iliad*, and by his experience of the intense desire for a closer knowledge of Plato felt by many students who could read him in a translation only. Philosophy loses sorely by translation, and commentary, Dr. Bosanquet thinks, can do much to restore its real meaning. He has made no attempt at textual criticism, but has simply endeavored "to bring home to English readers or to novices in Greek the sort of interpretation which a tutor at Oxford or Cambridge would probably lay before his pupils." The translation to which the

Companion is adapted is that of Davies and Vaughan, in Macmillan's Golden Treasury Series, which the commentator characterises as scholarlike and trustworthy, and of a size and cost that make it universally accessible. The book is made up (1) of a brief introduction, discussing the history and thought of the times, the life and philosophy of Plato, the domestic life of the Greeks, and the structure of the *Republic*; (2) of the commentary, following the natural divisions of the *Republic* as given by Jowett, where the translation is referred to by page and line; and (3) of a good Index. Vaughan's translation of the *Republic* consisting, it would seem, of three hundred and seventy pages, while this Commentary takes up four hundred and sixteen, one is at first tempted to think that the matter has been overdone. But no one who knows the difficulties and the vast extent and suggestiveness of Plato's thought will on this account be led to judge harshly of the commentator's work; for the careful study of one thinker as a means of philosophical education is more essential and fruitful than the same study and time distributed among many. "Beware of the man of one book."

μκρκ.

THE MELANCHOLY OF STEPHEN ALLARD. A Private Diary. Edited by *Garnet Smith*. New York and London: Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pages, 305. Price, \$1.75.

The Melancholy of Stephen Allard is a work of more than common merit. Its author was a young man of a retiring, despondent disposition, not possessing the least trace of that aggressive energy which is necessary for success in the world, but an indefatigable student, and a man of profound literary and intellectual sensibilities. The secret of his sad condition seems to have lain in a species of intellectual epicureanism. Unknown and disregarded by the world about him, lost already to others in the undistinguished crowd, he labored to lose himself. "Ignored, 'I sought in turn to ignore myself. Whensoever I was released from toil, I drugged 'consciousness of personality with the opiates of literature.'" In another place he says: "I am weary, weary of thought." Speaking of others like himself he says: "To be a man is to be self-conscious; and to be self-conscious is to be diseased. 'They that are splendidly diseased, they whose disease is further complicated with 'the disease of genius, imaginatively incarnate health and harmony, and are not 'altogether hapless, since their melancholy is not impotent.'" The Diary was never intended for publication it seems, and in giving it to the world the editor has self-confessedly transgressed his dead friend's intention. The book is something in the style of Amiel's Journal, but of course does not reach the power and insight of the latter work. The author discusses all the important problems of life in a unique and broad spirit, albeit saddened and hampered by the prevailing disposition of his mind, and shows an acquaintance with thought and literature which for his years is certainly rare. Such a book, being wholly disconnected in subjects and development, should have been supplied with a good index. The editor's marginal analyses, however, help somewhat.

T. J. McC.